TOURISTS FIND COMFORT IN CUBA

Mr. Carpenter Tells About the Hotels and Other Accommodations for Travelers.

CATER TO OUR APPETITES

Some of the Queer Features of Restaurants and Cafes-Soft Drinks-Cheap Cabs.

By Frank G. Carpenter.

(Beeclal to The Times-Dispatch.)

HAVANA. CUBA. September 23.—
Cuba is fast becoining a winter resort for the United States, and it promises to be the Riviera of North American. The crowds which now go to Florida and rich Americans are settling not only here, but at different points along the morthern shore of the Island. I know a dozen men who have bought estates, in the northern shore of this city, and several who are planning to make their winter homes about Nipe bay, on the northeastern coast. There were three times as many American tourists here

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Cuba's Soft Drinks.

This is a great place for soft drinks, once are good. A popular one is panal, the subscience are different points as given and white of erg dried in the shoulders or in carta.

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of tourists in large bodies. A party of 200 can hardly be accommodated, and the time is not ripe for the Cook tourist and others of his class.

and others of his class.

Hotels in Havana.

Most of the hotels of Havana are run on the Spanish, plan, with American prices. The most of the hotels have two rates—a moderate one for the summer, on the European plan, and a higher one for the winter on the American plan. The aummer guests are Cubans and Spaniards; but those of the winter are Americans, whom, as the Cubans rightly think, will pay anything in or our, of reason.

mend them for Cuba.

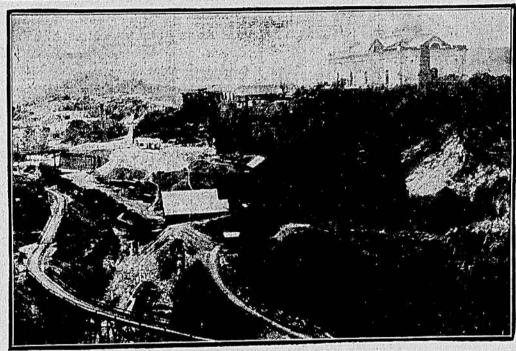
Anything extra outside the breakfast bill of fare is charged for at the regular restaurant rates. The same is true of dinner, which is eaten from 5 to 8 o'clock, and is the hearty meal of the day.

Restaurants and Cafes.

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In addition there are other places where one can rent, rooms; and there were cone can rent, rooms; and there is a content to turn the same fibor for the common use of both texes.

Cuba's Soft Drinks.



THE CHAPEL OF THE VIRGIN ON TOP OF A MOUNTAIN

last winter as ever before, and double that number are expected the coming season. The steamship lines are all building new vessels, Next season the Munsons will have new steamers from Mobile; the Wards are to put on a line from New York to Nipe bay, and there will probably be additional ships from New Orleans, Miami and Tampa.

A Land of Bad Hotels.

A Land of Bad Hotels.

So far no arrangements have been made to accommodate the increased travel. The hotel accommodations are notoriously inadequate, and I am safe in saying that there are not half a dozen first-class hotels in all Cuba. Indeed, with the exception of that at Camaguey, I might say that there is not one which is run after our up-to-date American methods, and that notwithstanding the rates are high and provisions compararates are high and provisions compara-

very cheap.
This is so much so that some of 't' dirond managers discourage the coming

fee and rolls with butter and a couple or oranges. The oranges are pared down or oranges. The oranges are pared down to the flesh with a sharp knife, just as you pare an apple, and we eat them by sticking in a fork and sucking the juice. We can have our rolls toasted without extra charge, but the two soft-boiled eggs, which I order for each of my party every morning, are set down on the bill at 60 cents extra. This is 10 cents an egg. Indeed, it makes one almost hate a hen.

almost hate a hen.
Our luncheon, or what the Cubans here call almuerzo, is taken at 11 or 12 o'clock, from a limited bill of fare, most of the dishes of which are Spanish. Some are good, but others stomach-trying. The Spanish omelettes, for instance, are delictous, but the beefsteaks are tough and the stews and other concoctions need at least a tablespoon of pepsin per meal. I gaw once on a hotel table at Parkersburg.
W. Va. bottles of pepsin sauce beside

from us. The fuel is a

self-advertiser, once it

has chance to get in its

best licks. But possi-

bly you have never

tried it. In that case good fortune awaits you on the day you order a sample ton or

two. If we can't suit you "down to the

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It has a süghtly sweetish taste, with a mild flavor of cocoanut. It is not to be compared to the milk of the rips nut, which is coarse and heavy. There is a drink here made of the skins and cores of pineapples, which have been placed in a stone jar with water and allowed to ferment; and there are others made of other fruits, the names of which I do not know. The Cubans have but few intoxicating liquors, and, so far, I have seen cating liquors, and, so far, I have seen almost no drunkenness. The most common wines are Spanish, it being the cus-

mon when are Spanish, it being the custom to drink wine with ones' meals.

Coffee may be had anywhere in Cuba. It is always served with milk, and, as the coffee beans are burnt to a cinder, it is rather bitter to the American taste. Most of the milk for coffee is belied and salted. It used to be the custom to drive the co's through the streets from house to house and milk them before the doors, but the milk is now delivered from panniers on the backs of horses or mules.

Cabs Are Cheap.

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Cabs Are Cheap.

I came from my ship to the hotel for thirty cents in silver. This included three passengers. The fare for the originary cab ride is about fifteen cents, and the service is quite as good as that of New York. The cab horses are fast, and the drivers as a rule are not extortionists. In shopping, one can get a hack by the hour for fifty cents gold, and if he makes his bargains away from the hotels, other kinds of transportation are cheap.

from the hotels, other kinds of transpor-tation are cheap.

The street car rates are five cents
American, and there is a set of common vehicles known as gua-guas, which con-nect Havana with all suburban towns, the fares of which are remarkably low.
The gua-guas, pronounced walt-walts, are the property of the street car comthe fares of which are remarkably low. The gua-gidas, pronounced wah-wals, are the property of the street car companies. They are compluses, each drawn by four mules, the animals being Triven on the gallon up hill and down. I have ridden in them here and there over the island, but I doubt whether they are fit vehicles for our supersensitive American ladies, who may object to the smoking among the men and women passengers. The cabs of Cuba are victorias, with tops which come down so as to shade the eyes. They are well-made vehicles, imported from Europe. Indeed, I am told that the American cab will not stand the wear and tear of the Havana street. The most of the city thoroughfares are marrow, and not a few are payed with cobbles. In some of them it is hardly possible to pass, and the drivers have to be careful at the crossings or when turning a corner. Every cab has a under it, which is rung by the foot of the driver. These bells are of the doorgong variety, so that there is a continual clanging and ringing as the carriages go through the streets. Indeed, it was some time before I could find where the ding-dong noises came from, until I saw that they were from my own cab and made by my driver.

A great deal of the transportation of Guba is moved by mules. This is so with the heavy traffic of Havana. The mules are fine animals, fat, strong and well kept. Each eart mule has a gay saddle and a bridle, with a red tassel as big as a fly brush at each ear and also under the chin. Many of the mules have bells about their necks, and some have bells on their collars, so that they make a great noise as they go.

Outside Havana the heavy traffic is carried in ox carts; such carts are to be seen everywhere throughout the island except in the larger cities.

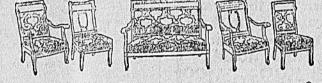
The most of the tourists do not go out-

The Land of Ten Million Palms. The most of the tourists do not go outside of Havana. They miss the most interesting part of the country. There is no more beautiful island than this. It is the Switzerfand of the tropies, and, indeed, it mish be called the land of ten million palms. I have seen palms in the tropies around the globe, but nowhere do they compare with those of Cuoa. The principal tree is the royal palm. It rises straight upward to a height of 100 or more feet, when it bursts out into a gigantic tassel of fern-like leaves. The leaves are of the brighest green; they have many rbanches, and they quiver The Land of Ten Million Palms.

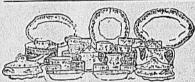
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Parlor Suits.

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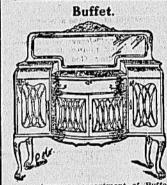
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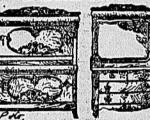
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ground"-yes, below ground, in your cellar-the coal man hasn't har ned who can. All we're looking for is a full. How's to-day for the first lap in the wak and Pine Wood, long, sawed and was length.

Blagi & Ladd,

A WONDERFUL

It matters not

a trial. Jb

Carpets.

Anderson's Carpet House,

in the breeze. These royal palms are to be seen in groves and singly here and there throughout cultivated Cuba. They often line the road to some great haclenda, or mark the boundaries of an estate. They may be seen among the sugar fields, columns of silver rising out of a plain of emeralds; and again over the dark green of the tobacco or above the teadish bronze of a pineapple plantation. They stand out upon the newly plowed fields of rich chocolate soil and mirror themselves in every stream and lake. There are tens of thousands—aye, tens of millions of them.

These palm trees form, to a large extent, the building and roofing material of Cuba. Their leaves are used to wrap the bales of tobacco which are brought into the factories or shipped abroad. Sewed together, they form the walls of the huts, and faid one over another, the roofs. Enormous sheds are covered by them, from 19,000 to 20,000 leaves being used for a single toacco barn. Such leaves are tied over the horns above the yokes to shade the leads of the oxen. They some times also shade the carts, a framework being covered with them.

long and eighty feet wide, its roof being upheld by immense columns. It is known as the Gothic Temple, There are wonderful caves in the mountains near Camaguey, and natural bridge and tunnels and subterraneup rivers throughout the island. The Cuzco River, in eastern Cuba, bores its way through a lofty ridge and comes out on the other side, three miles distant.

The Virgin of Cobre.

The Virgin of Cobre.

Cuba has some shrines which are worth visiting. One may tramp about here in the foot-prints of Columbus, and if he has that faith which moves mountains he may go to the shrine of the Virgin of Cobre, not far from Santlago, and have all his alliments curred. I visited the place during my exploration of the copper mnes. The chapel of the Virgin is right on the top of the mountain, with the village of Cobre perhaps a quarter of a mile below it. There are steps leading from the town to the chapel, and pligrims come here at certain times of the year and go up these steps on their knees to pray to the Virgin and be cured. It is the custom in Cuba when one's prayers regarding a special allment have been answered to give a silver modul of the diseased member to the church. In the glass cases back of the altar I say foo jittle solid logs which the priest tolime had been given by the lame who had been made to walk, and hundreds of silver and gold hands, and even golden lungs, livers and lights. There were gold and silver eyes donated by the blind who had been made to see and a cord or so of crutches which had aided the lame to the chapel, but which, being cured, they nieded a longer. As I cannined these vidences of the Virgin's curative prop-

orties the priest told me he had boxed of other gold and silver images stored away in the vaults of the church, and he retailed many fairly stories of the Virgin and her wonderful cures.

How the Virgin Looks.

How the Virgin Looks.

This Virgin is the parton saint of Cuba, She has much the same place here as that of Saint Anne de Beaupre in Canada, or that of the spring blessed by the Virgin at Lourdes. The priest opened the glass case in which she is kept and allowed, me to examine her. Her figure is about as kg as a two-dollar doll. It is of wood beautifully painted and clad in satin, embruders ed with flowers, and decorated of the omeralds, diamonds and other is. There is said to be about forty thousand dollars worth of diamonds and cuerands upon it, and this, notwithstanding a robery of about six years ago, whea tuleves broke into the chapet and carried away treasures worth twenty-five thousand dollars.

Dates Backs to Columbs. Dates Backs to Columbs.

The story of this Virgin dates back to the days of Columbus. I have it from the menth of the priest. Her first appearance menth of the priest. Her first appearance was in the hands of Alonzo Oleda, who give her to an Indian chief, in whose libe she was worshipped. Las Casas, the Spanish historian, describes this Virgin and tells how she helped the Indians who had her in their contests with neighboring tribes. At one time two armies were facing each other. One possessed the image of the Virgin and the other had their native idois. The contest was to see whose god was the stronger. As the contestants came together the Indians who owned the Virgin repeated an Ave Maria, whereupon the Virgin perself came down in a claund and gave victory to that army.

A short time after this the Virgin disappeared and she was not seen again until just about eight years after our Pligrim forefathers landed on Plymouth

Rock. She was then discovered by two fishermen floating upon a thin board upon Nipe bay. The winds were strong, but the sea did not overturn the hoard nor wet the garments of the Virgin standing upon it. The fishermen first thought the little image was a sea bird, but when they came up to her and took up the board they read these words, which had been engraved upon it;

"If am the Virgin of Charity."

The records show that they took the image away and made a chapel for it. The natives worshipped it, but one night it disappeared and only after long hunting was it discovered where its chapel now stands. It was carried back, but it again disappeared and was found on this same spot. The people then realized that this was the chosen home of the Virgin and they creeted a church on the site.

That church was built at just about the time that 103.00 was 100.000. That church was built at just about this time that hosens was foliated, it was afterward succeeded by the church of to-day. It stands in the top of a copper-filled mountain, What were once the right est copper mines of the world lie all about it and there might be mines undermenth it were it not that the natives would consider such excavations a sacrielege. lege. (Copyright, 1905, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Largest of Photographs.

A photographer of Chicago claims to have taken the largest photograph in existence. It is a full length potrait of Dowie, and measures eight feet by four feet. This protrait is not an exlargement, but a genuine original photograph.

Evasion.

"We've quit keeping up appearances."
"What are you doing now?"
"Oh, keeping up disappearances."